

# San Diego DX Club Bulletin



December 2014



Although attendance was down due to the ARRL 10 meter Contest, the 2014 SDDXC Holiday Party was a great success. We couldn't ask for better weather or a nicer venue with its unique decor

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

For real time DX spotting and lively conversation on a variety of subjects, join us on 144.415 MHz.

## DECEMBER PROGRAM

### Annual Holiday Party

## DECEMBER MEETING NOTICE:

JOIN US AT THE FIDDLER'S GREEN RESTAURANT  
2760 Shelter Island Drive  
San Diego, CA 92106

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014

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**President:**

**Wild Bill Wiederhold, WB6BFG**  
(760) 721-2927

wb6bfg@arrl.net

**Vice President:**

**John Vissat, NA6L**  
CQ-NA6L@hotmail.com

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

**Ellen Utschig, N6UWW**  
(760) 721-2927  
elenalaloca@cox.net

**Past President:**

**Dan Severance, N6ERD**  
(858) 449-8526  
daniel\_severance@yahoo.com

**Board of Directors:**

**Ed Felter, AI6O**  
(619) 668-0928  
ai6o@arrl.net

**Ron Stockton, N0RR**  
(760) 224-7139

rjstockton@cox.net

**Miguel Rivera, KJ6YXI**

(619) 818-1261  
rivera1pet315@gmail.com

**Ladder:**

**John Barcroft, K6AM**  
k6am@arrl.net

**Webmaster:**

**Arnie Lewin, W7BIA**

**Historian:**

**Glenn Rattmann, K6NA**  
(760) 749-3936  
k6na@cts.com

**Bulletin Editor:**

**Ron Stockton, N0RR**  
(760) 224-7139  
rjstockton@cox.net

## A Word from the Prez . . .

Wild Bill, WB6BFG



Greetings DXers,

I hope this finds everyone in good spirits and that the Holiday Season fills your hearts with warmth and happiness. Also hope that those that attended the Holiday Party had a great time! I've heard that John, NA6L, and his YL Denise, KJ6JAL did a wonderful job on locating a fabulous venue with great food to boot!

The San Diego DX Club wishes to extend its gratitude to Ron Stockton, N0RR, for his years of service as our newsletter editor. He has done a fine business job toward providing us with great newsletters. He will turn the reins over to our former newsletter editor, Bob Farkaly, K9RHY. Many thanks to Bob for stepping up to the plate to do this once again for us.

The 66th International DX Convention for 2015 is now open for general registration. <http://www.dxconvention.com/> The meeting will be held from April 17-19, 2015 at the beautiful Visalia Convention Center in downtown Visalia, CA. Hope to see you there! <http://dxconvention.com/pages/registration.html>

Have some extra WAM (Walk Around Money) laying around?: DXpedition CW Operator Needed For TI9. Branko, YU4DX, is trying to save the TI9 DXpedition to Cocos Island next February. They need a 3rd operator (CW) who is willing to provide a \$12,600 loan to the team to help secure their boat now. According to Branko, the 3rd op will receive all QSL revenue generated from all sources: donations, clubs, OQRS, direct QSLs, etc. The other 2 operators are Dom (3Z9DX) and Jorge (TI2HMJ). They have received a license and permission to operate from February 14-24, 2015. For further information please contact Branko directly at: [yu4dx@mail.ru](mailto:yu4dx@mail.ru) The TI9/3Z9DX website: <http://www.nielsen.net/ti9a/activation-plan/>

The January meeting will be at The Sizzler. Gordon Shackelford, AE6QW, will give a presentation on Ultra High Performance HF Receivers: \$1K to \$18K ~ Really! Please join us for an evening of fun, food and camaraderie!

If you find yourself with entirely too much time of your hands, here's this month's YouTube link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QsyWLO2ljY> And here's a technical YouTube video: "Cost of a dB" <https://www.youtube.com/embed/pNKZ3ifU5Qg?rel=0&modestbranding=1&autoplay=1>

Please remember that the club's newsletter is only as good as the information editor receives, so please take the time to submit any DX related stories, tall tales, and musings of a madman or crazy lady for his consideration. Let's help Bob, K9RHY, start off with a bang come January. [K9RHY@ARRL.NET](mailto:K9RHY@ARRL.NET)

73 & 88's to the pretty ones!

Wild Bill, WB6BFG

## Vice President Report

John, NA6L

### SDDXC Holiday party 2014

All systems were a go for a perfect DXCC holiday party on December 14th: Fabulous weather (gorgeous day for a drive to Shelter Island and San Diego bay), perfect venue (we had the Fiddler's Green restaurant reserved and all to ourselves), scrumptious & plentiful food (even the "fish and chips with beer" kind of guy loved the salmon and we saw that the chunks of beef on the kabobs were enormous), excellent services at excellent prices, and best of all, the presence of the best DX'ers in San Diego County!

Along with seasonal Holiday décor the restaurant is the local hang-out for the boat racing crowd and is themed accordingly – just say it was "Yachts" of fun looking at all of the hull half models. Think of replacing the boat theme with a radio theme and we all be in HAM heaven.

About 30 club members and their spouses got an opportunity to mix, mingle and catch up on holiday cheer. The Secret Santa gift exchange was what can best be described as "spirited"....Some of the most "stolen" popular items included chocolates (you can never have enough chocolate), bottles of wine (ditto on the wine bottles) and Pat WA6MHZ even ended up with a working vintage ICOM IC-2AT, along with a fresh battery pack to put in it.

We also had a raffle for all attendees with some cool items only a ham would love. Most of the goodies were purchased by our own SDDXC but HRO also contributed some prizes – thanks HRO. Ferrites anyone?

We were all grateful for the helping hands of Nadia, WB1EAZ Ron's 10 yr old granddaughter, who managed to earn her keep by pulling her Grandpa's number out of the bowl not only once, but twice. Ron, of course, was gracious enough to put his item back in the running for another lucky winner. Let us hope that we all impressed Nadia enough for her to seriously consider going for her tech license.

Oh, and of course, every seat had an (optional) view of the Chargers game on the many televisions... too bad the Chargers didn't put on a better show, but at least the dessert (a finger licking good brownie sundae with whipped cream and nuts) took the bitterness out of their loss.

It certainly seems that everyone who attended had a fabulous time and there are even rumors that there's a proposal out there to make this an annual location...

Now if only Fiddler's had an antenna so that we could broadcast to the North Pole from there next year. Wouldn't Santa be surprised?

Thanks to all of the members who contributed to this write-up via email and Ellen thanks for bringing the checkbook and paying the bill!

Happy Holidays,  
John NA6L and Denise KJ6JAL

John, NA6L [dotravel@aol.com](mailto:dotravel@aol.com)



## Secretary/Treasurer Reports Ellen, N6UWW



### Secretary's Report

John - NA6L presided over the (Thanksgiving Eve) meeting on November 26, which started at 6 pm at Sizzler Restaurant. There were 21 in attendance including one guest, Leo WA6LOS.

**New Business** - Request for funding for the E3 Dxpediton was mentioned and will be discussed by the Board.

**Old Business** – None.

Leo WA6LOS turned out to be the surprise presenter bringing us all up to date about the Spratly Island Dxpediton scheduled for April 2015. A brief synopsis of the team's plans was given. Details are on their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/DX0P2015>).

They are already staging gear and have Elecraft (K3, KX3, amps etc.) and SteppIR (crankIRs) on board as partial sponsors, 11 person team to be based on Pagasa Island in the Spratlys with a short mini-Dxpediton to another island called Parola.

We had the extended roundtable following the presentation and it went really well with most people talking about all of the great DX they have worked.

### Treasurer's Report

Statement Balance: 11/28/2014—\$6690.34

**2015 dues become payable December 31st. Please consider renewing early by bringing your dues check (payable to SDDX Club Inc) to the meeting.**

Ellen, N6UWW

## Editor's Ramblings

Many thanks to Dennis N6KI, Larry N6NC, and Jim W6YA for providing inputs this month.

This is my 24th and last edition as your bulletin editor and I have mixed emotions about relinquishing the task. On the bright side I will actually have a life during the 3rd week of every month with more opportunity to tune the bands, announce spots and work DX before the inevitable sunspot minimum. I also plan to be a bulletin contributor by providing relevant DX inputs. As a board member, I will contribute to the club in other ways. An initial task is to analyze and ponder the results of the member survey and see if we need to change anything to meet the needs and maintain interest of the core members. The first thing that comes to mind is integrating more technical content into meeting presentations and bulletin articles.

Getting back to a subject near and dear to our hearts, which is DX, there are several DXpeditions planned to very rare entities in 2015. Be sure to stay informed about the plans for Navassa Is, KP1, Eritrea, E3, Chesterfield Islands, TX8(?) and Spratly Islands, DX0P.

And while you are keeping up to date, don't forget Toshi, JA8BMK, will be active from 5R8DX January 10-25, XW8BM February 5 - 25 and XV7BM March 1 - 31.

Over to you Bob. I hope you decide to keep How's DX and use current QSLs received to fill-in the ugly white space.

RON, NORR

I can copy CW, therefore I exist

## The SDDXC Top Ten By John, K6AM

On Holiday in December. Will return well rested in January

Looking for a new QTH? Many of you know and have worked Fred, KH7Y. Fred and his YL have decided to move back to the mainland after their ten years in Hawaii. They have a nice home/ham facility up for sale. So if you've always wanted to live in Hawaii check out this link: <http://www.qrz.com/db/K6IJ>

### The 2014 Holiday Party in Pictures





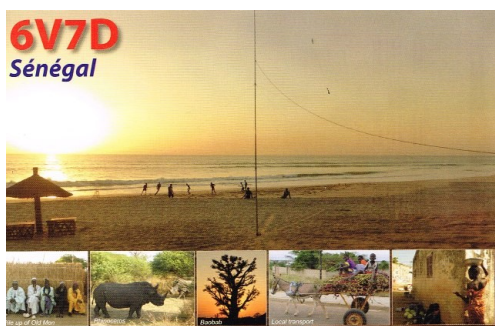


# How's DX?

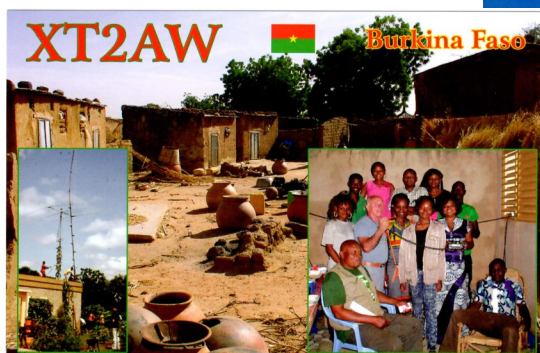
This page consists of historical data so members can share information or brag about their accomplishments. For real time info, monitor the club 2m spotting frequency, 144.415 MHz. For future DX info subscribe to the ARRL weekly DX bulletin and/or W3UR's newsletter.

## Recent DX Worked by SDDXC Members

| Station | Date   | Time | Band  | By   | Station  | Date   | Time | Band  | By   |
|---------|--------|------|-------|------|----------|--------|------|-------|------|
| 9K2HN   | 23-Nov | 1409 | 80    | W6YA | KH8B     | 30-Nov | 1910 | 10 CW | NORR |
| 3B8HA   | 1-Dec  | 1429 | 80    | W6YA | OH0V     | 30-Nov | 1552 | 10 CW | NORR |
| 5X1XA   | 30-Nov | 1503 | 10 CW | NORR | S01WS    | 12-Dec | 1949 | 10    | W6YA |
| 7O2A    | 27-Nov | 1614 | 10    | W6YA | SU0ERA   | 29-Nov | 1528 | 10 CW | NORR |
| 7O2A    | 27-Nov | 1553 | 10 CW | NORR | TX8C     | 30-Nov | 0110 | 10 CW | NORR |
| 7O2A    | 29-Nov | 0239 | 40 CW | NORR | VP8KF    | 29-Nov | 0329 | 40 CW | NORR |
| 8Q7DV   | 3-Dec  | 0029 | 30    | W6YA | XT2AW    | 23-Nov | 2131 | 10    | W6YA |
| 9K2HN   | 27-Nov | 1423 | 80 CW | NORR | ZA/YT7DQ | 28-Nov | 0204 | 30    | W6YA |



Did you work them?



## 2014 ARRL 10m Contest Results

Call: [NX6T](#)

Operator(s):

[AF6WF](#) [K4RB](#) [K6KAL](#) [N6EEG](#) [N6ERD](#) [N6KI](#) [NA6MB](#) [NB7V](#) [NN6X](#) [W2PWS](#)

Class: **M/S HP**

QTH: CA

Operating Time (hrs): 26.5

Location: USA

Score:

| Band               | QSOs | Mults                                   |
|--------------------|------|-----------------------------------------|
| CW:                | 995  | 64                                      |
| SSB:               | 971  | 67                                      |
| Total: <b>1966</b> |      | <b>131</b> Total Score <b>1,479,000</b> |

Club: San Diego Contest Club

### Comments:

Condx were good and our local power line QRN was down since we had a great rain event during first part of contest. Best score we have ever done for this contest. Lost front end on 1 K3 Sunday morning and found out our main K3 is out of alignment possibly as when clicking on CW skimmer spots, we heard nothing til we moved the tuning dial almost 200 hZ off what we clicked on...hmmmmmm..... 2 K3s - ACOM 2000A - C31XR Yagi ( 7 EL on 10 ) at 30 ft - 3 EL SteppIR Yagi at 45 ft.

Dennis, N6KI

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### Hints and Kinks

I can offer some tidbits from hard experience. Call me a dinosaur, but I'm still using RS232-USB serial converter cables instead of native USB connections. I have found it is prudent to put clamshell toroids immediately on either side of the converter plugs that contain the FTDI chipsets in the converter cables. Often the electronics in the plugs are vulnerable to stray RF even if you already have clamshell (or donut) toroids elsewhere on the cables.

Also, on your Steppir antenna controllers, place one or two clamshell toroids on the cable as close to the serial DB9 input plug as you can, and on the large antenna control cable where it enters the controller. The controllers are also vulnerable to stray RF, especially if you are running them with software from the computer, such as with PstRotatorAZ or the like.

Finally, I intend to place opto-isolator plugs on each RS232 to USB serial cable. I found there are inexpensive ones (~\$13) available from a Hong Kong electronics suppliers [<http://www.ebay.com/itm/221119991512>]. Opto-isolators have done the trick in several other hardware applications connected to the radio gear.

Larry, N6NC

## Another Mega-DXpedition in the planning stages

Dear DXer,

On 26 October 2014 an announcement was made through various channels that I had obtained permission to land and reside on Bouvet Island (3Y/B) for the mid-January 2016 until mid-April 2016 time frame. On the webpage <http://www.on4ww.be/bouvet2016.html> an extensive description of the project as well as a request for (exclusive) funding was put forward.

On 19 November 2014 I sent a request for funding *intentions* to the various DX Foundations, DX Clubs, Radio Amateur Organizations and some of the corporate material providers.

Today I am addressing you as an individual DXer who has actively contributed towards the success of one or more of the fairly recent major DXpeditions.

On 11 November 2014 Alex/UN7PCZ announced a two week DXpedition to Bouvet Island during the December 2015 - January 2016 time frame. I do not at all see this as a competing project, and welcome this great news.

The fact of a large group going to Bouvet has convinced me even more that I should try to obtain funding through a single/exclusive sponsor, as extensively outlined at <http://www.on4ww.be/bouvet2016.html#funding>.

Two main reasons for this would be to

- 1) off-load the financial burden from the ham community (in case the sponsor doesn't want a financial return but has other plans with the project), and
- 2) for me to be able to focus on the DXpedition logistics, rather than having to search for finances.

In case I manage to secure an exclusive sponsor for this project, it would obviously be favorable if this sponsor does not specifically seek a financial return. In the opposite scenario I will have to turn to the ham community, investigating what is feasible in terms of financial support.

The subsequent question: what financial support would you be able to pledge for this project? *This is no formal request for funding*, I am only asking for your *intentions* in order to assess the financial feasibility of the project – with the scenario outlined above.

The forecasted budget is put at 250,000 euro ( $\pm$  310,000 USD), which is far less than a larger group operating for a shorter period of time would require. Furthermore, this is a generous forecast, *I expect the final budget to ultimately be less*.

In the last month I received donation pledges from individual DXers ranging from 15 to 3,400 euro. To give you an idea what would be needed to reach 250,000 euro: if each of the addressees on this list would pledge 55 euro (70 USD), Bouvet 2016 would be a fact.

This of course I can neither ask nor expect, it is just a mathematical example of what is required financially.

Another important aspect to me is the transparency and control of funding. Every cent raised for this project will be registered through the non-profit organization 'Peter I - Antarctica Expedition 1994' (renamed 'Antennes zonder Grenzen - Antennes sans Frontières' in 1995). This organization was formed in 1993 by Peter ON6TT, with the goal of transparent accountability for every cent spent on the 3Y0PI DXpedition – visible to the entire expedition team. Good accounts make good friends!

73,  
Mark ON4WW



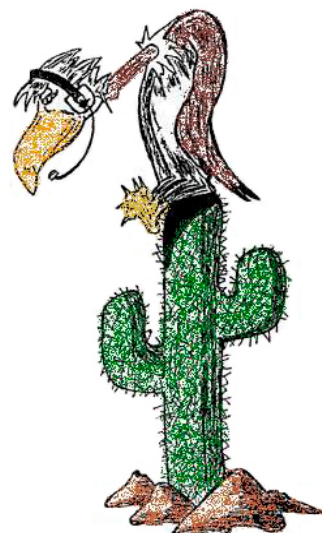
# ***2015 Arizona Section Convention***

## ***Yuma Hamfest***

***Yuma, Arizona***

***Feb. 20 & 21, 2015***

Yuma County Fairgrounds  
2520 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yuma, Arizona



***[www.yumahamfest.org](http://www.yumahamfest.org)***

Check the Website for Additional Information

|                                                                                 |                                                             |                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gates Open for Camping<br>Thursday, 2 pm<br>Vendor Setup<br>Friday, 7 am - Noon | Event Hours<br>Friday, Noon - 5 pm<br>Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm | Hamfest Dinner &<br>Grand Prize Drawing<br>Saturday Night<br>6:00 - 8:00 pm |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Vendors & Exhibitors  
Consignment Sales  
License Testing  
Hourly Door Prizes  
On-site RV Camping  
Hamfest Dinner  
ARRL Speaker  
Transmitter Hunt  
\$5.00 Admission**

**Tailgating (Swap Meet)  
Full Seminar Schedule  
DXCC Card Checking  
Incredible Grand Prizes  
Emergency Preparedness  
Admission Prize  
Hospitality Area  
Near Space Balloon Launch  
Antenna Clinic**

Hamfest Talk-In Frequency: 146.840 (-) PL 88.5 Hz

Email Contact: ***[info@yumahamfest.org](mailto:info@yumahamfest.org)***



We are proud to have the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of our event.

The Yuma Hamfest is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.



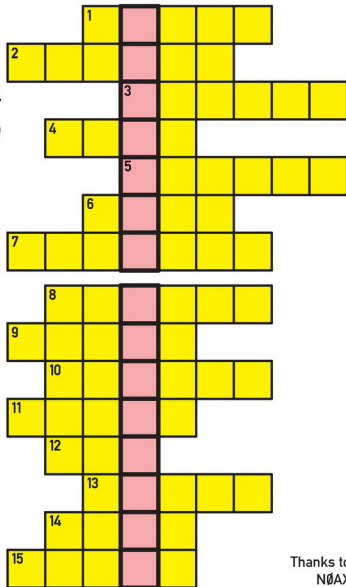
Presented by the Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Organization



# OF9X CHRISTMAS PUZZLE

Fill in all of the blanks and spell out the two mystery words!

1. Father Christmas' last name
2. The home of the OH8X station
3. The Finnish word for "sleigh"
4. The world's northernmost point
5. Santa lives above this circle
6. Seen on the ground at Christmas time in Finland
7. Lights that decorate at Christmas
8. Seen overhead at night in Finland
9. Santa's helpers
10. The good feeling at Christmas
11. Where Santa relaxes after his big holiday
12. A frozen nose
13. Big Christmas meal
14. Decorated for the season
15. Santa wears one



Thanks to  
NØAX